

Message Text

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ACTION SY-05

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FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1251

INFO DIA WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 BUENOS AIRES 5016

FROM RSO TO SY AND ARA

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ASEC, PINS, PINT, SHUM, AR

SUBJECT: SUMMARY OF TERRORIST ACTIVITIES (BI-WEEKLY)

1. THIS REPORT GIVES A SUMMARY OF POLITICAL VIOLENCE AND TERRORIST ACTIVITIES THAT HAVE COME TO OUR ATTENTION DURING THE PERIOD FROM JUNE 16-30, 1977.

2. JUNE 17: POLICE REPORTED THAT SEVERAL MEN IN A PICKUP TRUCK, BELIEVED TO BE TERRORISTS, WERE ENGAGED IN A SHOOTOUT WITH LOCAL FEDERAL TRANSIT POLICE IN THE CAPITAL. THERE WERE NO VICTIMS; THE TERRORISTS ESCAPED.

JUNE 20: AT 1000 HRS THE POLICE REPORTED AN ALERT FROM URBAN OPERATIONS CENTER STATING THEY HAD BEEN INFORMED ISOLATED GROUPS BELONGING TO TERRORIST ORGANIZATIONS WOULD TRY TO CAUSE DISORDER AT CELEBRATIONS AND PARTIES ON THAT DATE (FLAG DAY) AND THAT ALL POLICE PERSONNEL SHOULD BE ESPECIALLY ALERT IN AREAS WHERE THERE WERE OFFICIAL CEREMONIES AND PARADES. SUBSEQUENTLY, RSO WAS INFORMED THAT AN ATTEMPT HAD BEEN MADE ON THE LIFE OF PRESIDENT VIDELA DURING A CEREMONY AT THE FLAG MEMORIAL IN ROSARIO. REPORTEDLY, POLICE DISCOVERED SIX ROCKETS SET IN AN APARTMENT BUILDING FACING

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THE PRESIDENTIAL REVIEWING STAND. THE ROCKETS WERE TO BE ACTIVATED BY RADIO CONTROL AND WERE AIMED AT THE REVIEWING STAND. THE REPORT, ALTHOUGH THE DETAILS ARE NOT CLEAR, STATED THAT THREE OF THE ROCKETS WERE OF ANTI-PERSONNEL TYPE AND THREE WERE ARMOR-PIERCING. TWO OF THE ROCKETS WERE ACCIDENTALLY DETONATED BY SECURITY FORCES AND THEY STRUCK IN THE AREA OF THE REVIEWING STAND.

THE REMAINING ROCKETS WERE REMOVED TO BUENOS AIRES FOR EVALUATION. THE INITIAL INFORMATION SUGGESTS THEY WERE OF LOCAL FABRICATION.

ON THE SAME DATE POLICE REPORTED THAT OCCUPANTS OF AN UNIDENTIFIED VEHICLE SHOT AT FEDERAL POLICE PERSONNEL ON GUARD DUTY IN FRONT OF THE CONGRESS BUILDING. THERE WERE NO REPORTED INJURIES.

JUNE 23: LOCAL PRESS REPORTED THAT UNKNOWN PERSONS, BELIEVED TO BE TERRORISTS, THREW AN EXPLOSIVE DEVICE AT THE PEUGEOT CAR DEALER LOCATED AVE. MITRE 1968 IN THE AVELLANEDA DISTRICT OF THE FEDERAL CAPITAL. THE RESULTING EXPLOSION CAUSED MATERIAL DAMAGE.

JUNE 23 POLICE REPORTED THAT SEVERAL MEN IN A PEUGEOT 504 OPENED FIRE ON THE 4TH POLICE PRECINCT. THERE WERE NO VICTIMS AND THE MEN ESCAPED. ON THE SAME DATE, THREE PERSONS IN A FIAT THREW HAND GRENADES AT A FEDERAL POLICE POST AT ESCALDA ESTACION IN THE SOUTH SIDE OF THE CITY. NO VICTIMS WERE REPORTED.

JUNE 24 FEDERAL POLICE REPORTED A SHOOTOUT BETWEEN TRANSIT POLICE AND TERRORISTS AT GENERAL PAZ AND PANAMERICAN HIGHWAY. ONE TERRORIST WAS KILLED AND ONE WOUNDED. ON THE SAME DATE, FEDERAL POLICE
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ALERTED ALL PATROLS TO SET UP VEHICLE CHECKPOINTS TO CHECK ALL CARS WHICH MIGHT BE CARRYING EXPLOSIVES OR WEAPONS AND ALL SUSPICIOUS PERSONS SHOULD BE TAKEN TO THE POLICE STATION FOR IDENTIFICATION AND INTERROGATION.

ON THE SAME DATE, LOCAL PRESS REPORTED THAT SECURITY FORCES HAD RAIDED A PRT/ERP MEETING IN ROSARIO AND IN

THE CONFRONTATION FIVE (5) MALE AND FOUR (4) FEMALE TERRORISTS WERE KILLED. ONE TERRORIST WAS IDENTIFIED AS AN IMPORTANT LEADER IN THE ROSARIO AREA, AND ONE AS A FORMER URUGUAYAN NUN, WARNAME KITTY, WHO HAD RECEIVED GUERRILLA TRAINING IN CHILE. EXPLOSIVES, WEAPONS AND DOCUMENTATION BELONGING TO THE ERP ORGANIZATION WERE SEIZED.

ON THE SAME DATE, FEDERAL POLICE REPORTED THAT A GROUP OF TERRORISTS ATTACKED POLICE PRECINCT THREE IN QUILMES, BUENOS AIRES PROVINCE. DURING THE ATTACK THREE MALE AND TWO FEMALE TERRORISTS WERE KILLED. THEY ALSO REPORTED THAT RETIRED ARMY MAJOR ROMEO SERVIDIO

WAS KILLED BY TERRORISTS WHILE HE WAS ACCOMPANYING HIS
14 YEAR OLD DAUGHTER HOME FROM SCHOOL. SHE WAS
SERIOUSLY INJURED.

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ACTION SY-05

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INFO DIA WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 BUENOS AIRES 5016

FROM RSO TO SY AND ARA

JUNE 25: FEDERAL POLICE REPORTED A SHOOTOUT NEAR A
HOSPITAL AT CASEROS, PICHINCHA AND COMBATE DE LOS
POZOS STREETS. POLICE HELICOPTERS AND ARMY COMBAT
GROUP RESPONDED TO THE AREA. NO OTHER INFORMATION
IS AVAILABLE ON THIS INCIDENT.

JUNE 26: FEDERAL POLICE REPORTED THAT SEVERAL MEN OCCU-
PYING TWO VEHICLES ATTACKED POLICE POST AT RANELAGH
IN LA PLATA, FIRING AUTOMATIC WEAPONS AND USING HAND
GRENADES. NO CASUALTIES WERE REPORTED AND ONLY
MATERIAL DAMAGE WAS CAUSED TO THE BUILDING. THE
TERRORISTS ESCAPED.

JUNE 27: LOCAL PRESS REPORTED THAT IN CASTELAR, BUENOS
AIRES PROVINCE, SECURITY FORCES WERE INVOLVED IN A
CONFRONTATION WITH FIVE TERRORISTS, THREE MEN AND TWO
WOMEN. THE TERRORISTS WERE IN A PARKED VEHICLE.
THE FIVE TERRORISTS WERE KILLED AND A NON-COMMISSIONED
OFFICER AND A SOLDIER WERE INJURED.

JUNE 28: FEDERAL POLICE REPORTED FIVE MEN, PRESUMABLY
TERRORISTS, STOLE THREE CARS FROM A GARAGE AT
CARABOBO 350.

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LOCAL PRESS REPORTED THAT ON JUNE 28 IN CORDOBA A MEMBER OF THE NATIONAL ARMY WAS ASSASSINATED BY A GROUP OF TERRORISTS.

ON THE SAME DATE, LOCAL PRESS REPORTED THAT IN BAHIA BLANCA THE CHIEF OF ARMY COMMANDO FIVE WAS INJURED IN AN ATTACK BY A GROUP OF UNKNOWN PERSONS. ON THE SAME DATE IN BAHIA BLANCA THE PRESS REPORTED TERRORISTS ELEMENTS ATTACKED A NON-COMMISSIONED OFFICER OF THE PROVINCIAL POLICE.

LOCAL PRESS REPORTED THAT A MR. LUIS LOPEZ COMENDADOR WAS KIDNAPPED BY A GROUP OF UNKNOWN PERSONS WHO ENTERED HIS HOME IN LA PLATA, GAGGED AND HANDCUFFED HIM AND REMOVED HIM FROM THE PREMISES.

LOCAL PRESS REPORTED THAT SECURITY FORCES KILLED TWO TERRORISTS IN THE CAMET DISTRICT OF MAR DEL PLATA. NO FURTHER INFORMATION IS AVAILABLE.

JUNE 30 FEDERAL POLICE REPORTED THAT TWO ARMED MEN HELD UP THE OFFICE OF THE ARMY SOCIAL WORK (OBRA SOCIAL DEL EJERCITO) AND ESCAPED IN A PEUGEOT AND THAT ON JUNE 29 A GROUP OF TERRORISTS ATTACKED THE NON-COMMISSIONED OFFICERS' POLICE SCHOOL IN BERAZATEGHI DISTRICT OF LA PLATA. DURING THE CONFRONTATION EIGHT TERRORISTS WERE KILLED AND SEVEN ESCAPED. THE TERRORISTS USED THREE VEHICLES, ONE OF WHICH REPORTEDLY CONTAINED EXPLOSIVES.

3. RSO COMMENT: IN A SECURITY INTELLIGENCE REPORT FOR THE PERIOD COVERING MAY 1 - JUNE 3, 83 TERRORISTS WERE REPORTED KILLED AND FIVE MEMBERS OF THE POLICE AND ONE RETIRED ARMY COL. KILLED. THE REPORT REFLECTS CONTINUAL
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WEAKENING OF MONTONERO AND ERP MILITARY AND INTELLIGENCE CAPABILITY AND REFLECTS INCREASED EFFORTS ON THE PART OF TERRORIST ELEMENTS TO INFILTRATE UNION GROUPS, CREATE LABOR FRONTS AND IDENTIFY WITH POPULAR ISSUES.
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